

State Historic Preservation Office

Montana Historical Society

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November 7, 1990

James C. Harris
Remedial Project Manager
Region VIII, Montana Office
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
301 S. Park, Drawer 10096
Helena, MT 59626

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY

NOV 08 1990

MONTANA OFFICE

Re: Initial review of recordation materials
Somers Tie Plant

Dear Jim:

I haven't been able to reach you by phone today (Tuesday), and didn't want to keep you waiting another week for my comments on the materials you dropped off for Somers. The HAER photos are quite good, and appear to satisfy recordation requirements. They should integrate nicely into the package of information we have discussed, and serve to capture the plant from the overview level to fine interior details of the retort building.

Similarly, there is a core group of the original engineering drawings which should also prove very useful in the package. This includes the set of drawings detailing construction of the retort house and its foundation, as well as the drawing labelled Somers #1 (1927), which documents the track complex and illustrates the spatial relationships among elements of the treatment plant. We will need to discuss how best to copy and preserve those drawings, and where to house the originals.

We appear to still be lacking the Stipulation 2, process-oriented drawings. These are intended to show the functional relationships among elements of the plant, and to support the written, photographic and oral historical recordations as part of the package BN will present for public use.

As we had discussed, it is possible that two good drawings will suffice -- one that shows the progress of timber through the plant's various elements and one which focuses on what happened to a tie in the retort building. The examples we have seen so far continue to miss the point of documenting **process**. It will likely be important to stress the example recordation of smokeless powder production from the Picatinny Arsenal you have supplied the consultants. A descriptive flow diagram using roughly scaled pictures is very close to what we would like to see produced for Somers.

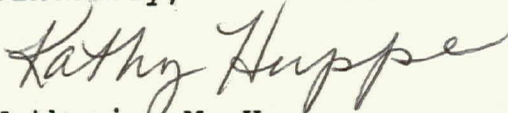


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Please call, Jim, if you want to discuss any of the points we've raised here. We do appreciate your close consultation with us on this project. Wouldn't it be nice if BN could donate the completed recordation package in time for Christmas?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kathy Huppe".

Katherine M. Huppe
Historical Survey Reviewer

File: Comp/EPA-Somers Tie Plant
CD/Somers Tie Plant Hist. Dist./FH Cty